



Merry Christmas

THE

TAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Happy New Year

ECHO

STUDENT NEWS

THIS ISSUE

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Volume LXXXVIII, No. 12

Friday, December 8, 2000

Upland, Indiana

Nativity scene secured; Stoops has high hopes of it staying put

By TIM CONSTABLE

STAFF WRITER

Baby Jesus and his friends won't be going anywhere this year. Extra security measures have been taken to make sure the members of the nativity scene west of the Zondervan Library won't disappear as a result of pranks as in years past.

The nativity scene has been a tradition at Taylor for eight or nine years, according to Bill Stoops, Physical Plant Manager. At the request of students, then-Provost Daryl Yost arranged for funds to purchase the figures, Stoops said.

Items in the nativity scene have been distributed throughout the area over the last several years.

Last year, several figures were stolen and a campus safety officer found index cards under the windshield wiper of his patrol car with scavenger hunt instructions on how to find them.

Stoops said the Jesus and Mary figurines were found in a field near the Avis building. A sheep

that had been missing for two years also turned up dangling by a rope outside a Morris Hall lounge. The campus safety officers found a total of five of the figures in Upland.

This year, a steel cable that is also secured in the ground connects the pieces of the nativity scene to each other.

Stoops said he expects the figures to be safer this year but realizes theft is not impossible. "We're not naïve enough to think that if someone really wants to steal them, they couldn't," he said. We are relying on student integrity for it to be left alone."

The figures are safe, if not completely accurate. According to Professor of Biblical Studies Bill Heth, the fiberglass characters aren't exactly correct depictions of the actual scene.

The nativity scene consists of three wise men, three shepherds, Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

But the shepherds' long tunics are more regal than the short and likely dirty ones they would have

worn, Heth said. "The shepherds were unclean, the dregs of society in an occupation that no one wanted," he said.

The presence of the wise men in the scene is another inaccuracy. According to Heth, most scholars believe they visited the Christ child one to two years after the birth.

Physical characteristics of the figures also differ from what they were likely to be. For example, Joseph is clean-shaven, and Jesus and Mary are red-haired.

"Jews would have been more Middle-Eastern," Heth said. "Really, they would have looked more Arab. Men would have grown beards and grown their hair out but not so long as portrayed in depictions."

Senior John Clark said the technical incorrectness of the nativity scene doesn't bother him. "I don't think the important thing is accuracy," he said. "It's a tradition of Christmas."

Sophomore Aaron Brown



Photo by Bryan Smith

SECURELY FASTENED to the ground, the nativity scene west of the Zondervan Library (hopefully) won't be going anywhere this Christmas.

said, "It doesn't make a difference to me. It's just a bunch of plastic statues to celebrate Christmas."

So far this year nothing has happened to the characters in the scene. "We really appreciate it. I

guess students must be taking their energy out on something else," said Stoops. In fact, he said, "We would like student participation in putting them up. We'd be happy to hear from any students that would be interested in that."

Money woes change student plans

By LATONYA TAYLOR

NEWS EDITOR

Few people have a problem with the value of a college education.

The cost, however, can be a different story.

According to studies released by the College Board (the organization that administers the SAT, PSAT and AP test programs), students at private four-year colleges are paying an average of \$16,332 in tuition and fees this year.

Although costs, college tuition and fees increased between 4.4 and 5.2 percent at four-year colleges between the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 school years, the amount of federal, state and institutional aid available to students has increased as well. Last year's \$68 billion was an increase of 4 percent over that in 1998-1999.

Most Taylor students are able to earn their degrees without interruption. However, some students find that a change in their financial circumstances means they need to leave Taylor temporarily or permanently.

Carrie Lenz, a senior international business major, chose to stay home during spring semester last year when her father, a wor-

ship pastor, left his job to focus on the family's yacht brokerage business.

Lenz's mother is a stay-at-home parent to her two younger brothers. Because the family's financial situation now depends on commissions rather than a regular salary, Lenz decided to work at home for a semester.

"If I had been intent on it, my parents could have taken out PLUS loans, but it wasn't a financially wise move for my family," Lenz said.

Lenz said although she's always been aware of her family's financial situation, it has made her find creative ways to save money. During another semester, she investigated programs at different schools to find the least expensive way to spend a semester studying in France.

She also said she's more grateful for the time she spends at Taylor. "I appreciate it more because I don't have it all the time," she said.

Although freshman David Hoeflinger said his family also has difficult financial circumstances, he doesn't think they'll turn around soon enough for him

to continue at Taylor.

"My dad was hospitalized for a while [this summer] and he was off work for two months," Hoeflinger said. "He doesn't make enough now that he's working [to keep me here]. I can't come back next semester because of money. I don't think I'll be able to come back at all."

Hoeflinger said he had also expected to receive about \$4,000 more in financial aid because his brother, Tim, is also a Taylor student.

Raising money has been difficult for Hoeflinger and his family. His parents and two younger sisters moved into a two-bedroom apartment in Columbus, Oh. When he and Tim move in after this semester, things will become more crowded.

The family's tight finances have also meant extra work for him. "I've had to work, so being a freshman, it's hard to work all the time and study and run cross country," he said.

Although he can't come back

See MONEY

(continued on page 2)

'Fandango' still a go

By KAREN PENNER

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Changes may have to be made concerning the first "Dr. G's Christmas Fandango."

President David Gyertson became ill earlier this week and may not be able participate in tonight's activities.

The original plan was to have Gyertson, accompanied by his wife, Nancy, read the Christmas story from the Bible in his pajamas. However, because of Gyertson's illness, Walt Campbell, dean of students, was asked to step in and read the story if the president does not recover in time.

"I feel bad that Dr. Gyertson won't be able to read the story his first year here, but I am certainly happy to help out in whatever way I can," Campbell said.

Campbell will also be continuing his tradition of reading the poem, "The Night Before Finals."

In addition, the event will include music by Chameleon 6, food, games and prizes.

Geoff Taylor, trumpet player for Chameleon 6, commented about playing for the event.

"There is going to be both reg-

ular Christmas jazz music and some peppy stuff for kids," Taylor said. "We always look forward to and enjoy playing for the student body."

William Heth, professor of Biblical studies, will be dressed as Santa Claus and elves will be present to take pictures of students with Heth. Also, a Christmas tree will be lit, possibly featuring ornaments from various residence hall wings.

Following the event, a Christmas movie will be shown for those who wish to stay and watch.

Students can also participate in the Silent Night basketball game scheduled. Silent Night is the annual basketball game in which Trojan fans remain silent until ten points are scored in Taylor's favor. When the tenth point is made, Taylor fans erupt with cheering and applause.

In spite of the changes, Mike Paull, president of Inter-Class Council, is confident that students will enjoy tonight's events.

"We [ICC members] are sorry that Dr. Gyertson may not be able to read the Christmas story this year, but I am sure that students will still have fun," Paull said.

Money an issue for many

(continued from page 1)

to Taylor, Hoeflinger said he hasn't given up on higher education. "I think I might try to attend Ohio State, which is in my town and would be really cheap," he said.

Walt Campbell, dean of students, said he has a special understanding of Lenz's and Hoeflinger's circumstances. After high school, Campbell took two years off to save money for Taylor. Although he started in fall of 1958, he left Taylor after a year and worked construction jobs to save more money. After he returned, he worked several hours a week at a job in Upland before graduating in 1964.

Tim Nace, director of financial aid, said Taylor's high retention rate between semesters - an average of 96 percent each year - indicates that Lenz's and Hoeflinger's situation is relatively unusual.

"This isn't a major problem at Taylor, or we would see a much lower retention rate," Nace said. "I think that for the most part, students are more or less counting the cost on the front end and not committing themselves to something they know they can't do for four years."

Need-based financial aid is awarded based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which uses a Congress-approved formula to calculate a student's need.

Nace said the office also uses an internal formula approved by the president's council to decide how much aid a student receives.

"It's very much an objective

formula, not at all subjective," he said. "We can't be accused of playing favorites, because we follow a formula," he said.

Nace said when students come to the financial aid office needing extra help, he tries to help them discover possible funding sources they may not be using, such as loans or a campus job. He also refers them to the Bursar's office to see if different payment schedules can be arranged. However, Nace said a handful of students with extreme circumstances may receive an adjustment in their financial aid packages.

Students have varying levels of responsibility for their educational costs. While some students' parents are able to pay the entire \$20,560 in tuition, room, board and other fees out-of-pocket, other students rely on a combination of loans, grants, work study and summer savings to finance their education.

Lenz estimates that she earns about two-thirds of her costs through scholarships, a grant from Taylor, student loans and summer earnings. "Somehow, it all gets made up," she said.

Paul Rapley, a sophomore computer science major, said a similar combination of sources provides the income he needs. Rapley, who works as a teacher's aide for COS 120 and tutors other students, said he is responsible for his entire college costs as "a matter of necessity."

"My parents are working hard enough to get by themselves," Rapley said of his father, a real estate agent, and his mother, a stay-at-home parent who home-

schools his younger brother. Rapley's two older siblings also attended Christian colleges. "There's no way they could put four kids through college, especially Christian college."

In the 1999-2000 school year, about 53 percent of Taylor students received need-based financial aid. About 26 percent of students received merit scholarships averaging \$3,000. Students received 12.8 million in total aid.

Nace said that even students who don't receive merit- or need-based aid don't pay the true cost of their Taylor education. The \$20,560 figure is really about 80 percent of the actual cost, he said. The university relies on gifts from donors for the remaining 20 percent.

Members of Taylor's graduating class of 2000 left with an average of \$15,200 each in debt, which Nace said is slightly below the national average.

Both Lenz and Rapley said it doesn't bother them that they will graduate with some debt.

"It might [bother me] if I were in a different major or had different spending habits," Lenz said. "It doesn't because I'm confident that I'll be getting a good job and I know my spending habits, so I think it'll be do-able."

"It isn't a big deal," Rapley said. "I'm not the type of person to get stressed about money."

At the same time, Hoeflinger said, financial stress does mean sacrifice. "It's not fun to always have to worry about where your money is going to come from or what you're going to do when there is no money," he said.

CUTTING FOR A CAUSE



Photo courtesy of Jim Garringer

A SMILE OF RELIEF shines on the face of sophomore Chrissy Jones after hairstylist Pam Crist chopped off her ponytail Monday afternoon. Jones, along with over 50 other women, cut off 10 inches of hair for Locks of Love, a national organization that donates wigs to children with alopecia. About 35 of the women involved in Monday's mass haircutting were from Taylor Medusa Salon in Broadripple donated their services.

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Griffin's five-day forecast

Friday Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday



Mostly
cloudy

Cloudy

Cloudy,
evening rain

Rain

Snow
showers

High: 33
Low: 17

High: 36
Low: 30

High: 41
Low: 36

High: 43
Low: 30

High: 34
Low: 30

Weather in brief

Temperatures will be warming through the weekend, melting off the accumulated snow from yesterday. Rain moves into the picture for Sunday and Monday, but a return to below-normal temperatures on Tuesday means that the precipitation will change to mostly snow. I would advise anyone traveling to the north next week to check with state police on road and weather conditions before hitting the road.

Griffin Ott is a mass communications major. He is the weatherman for TCS Frontline News and interned this summer in the weather department at WNDU TV, South Bend.

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"Hard work often pays off after time,
but laziness pays off now."

-E.L. Kersten

Christmas provides time for worship

The music department presents a montage of musical talent

By TIM WALTER
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

With Christmas quickly approaching, the music department has a number of musical programs planned for the holidays.

Many people go caroling and some families will gather to sing the traditional holiday songs as a part of their Christmas celebration. Often churches will do special musical presentations during the holiday season. Taylor's music department, in keeping with these traditions, has prepared a variety of different opportunities to worship the Lord through music.

Last Sunday, the Taylor Ringers and the University Chorus performed their Christmas concert in the Recital Hall. Both of these groups offer a unique musical perspective on Christmas music.

"The bells and Chorus provide a new outlook on how it can be used to show God's love," said Junior Ringer Rebecca Junker. The program featured musical variety through a combination of bells and piano, and bells and the Chorus.

Freshman Chorus member

Sarah Kellogg said, "We didn't sing Christmas songs with no meaning. We sang about the meaning of Christmas."

Wednesday's chapel service provided a variety of beautifully presented music and the chance to worship through traditional Christmas carols. The opening hymn had a festive arrangement, with the Symphonic Band playing and the entire chapel audience joining in on selected verses of "O Come, All Ye Faithful." The entire service was a celebration of Christ through music.

"In sacred music, it is a celebration of the incarnation more so than Easter or Lent. In pop-culture music there is a sense of the joys of life, human love and giving," said Al Harrison, department chairman.

In addition to the worship experience in chapel, the Taylor Sounds performed the musically-challenging piece "Gaudete." The Taylor Ringers also performed two selections in the Christmas spirit: "A Child Is Born" and "He Is Born."

The "Joys of Christmas" concert will be presented on both Friday and Sunday in the Recital Hall. Sarah Culp, a senior

Sounds member expects the concert to be "an exceptional presentation of music in a classic, intimate setting." This is the first year that the concert will feature Sounds and Chorale exclusively, which Culp believes will give the concert a different feel. Sounds has been working on the presentation of their music, since August. The program will include two songs in Latin, one in Spanish and variety of stylistically classic pieces.

"Music is one of my favorite ways to celebrate the season," Noah DeLong, a junior Sounds and Chorale member said. "It's a way to glorify God and thank Him. It's a gift to him," he said.

The Gospel Choir's Christmas concert on Saturday will not be a typical holiday performance. Instead of the traditional Christmas carols, there will be a variety of contemporary and Christmas gospel songs. There will, however, be a strong worship emphasis on the evening.

"When we sing it is so obviously an atmosphere of worship. I get chills all the time when we sing for Christ," freshman Gospel Choir member Rebecca Oehrig said.



Photo by Bryan Smith

EMILY CAINE AND JARED BAKKER focus intently on Dr. Harrison as he directs them through a song during Wednesday's Chapel.

Love creates Taylor's own soap opera

By JULIE COOPER
ASSISTANT ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

In the same genre as "Dawson's Creek" comes a TV show designed to meet students on their own turf.

"A Taylor University Love Story" is the newest show on the roster of TCS Channel 7. Written and directed by Zachariah Love, the show is the first of its kind to appear on the station.

At the beginning of the school year, TCS station manager Ben Reed asked for students to come up with original program ideas and offered them the freedom to carry out new concepts.

"I love the fact that Zach has taken the initiative and is doing his own show," Reed said. "I think it's great that he is using the facilities at Taylor to try and

realize an artistic vision."

The show was previewed at the Trojan Film Festival to create anticipation for its premiere. The debut episode of the pilot series will air early spring semester and will have an initial six-episode run. TCS may continue to air the show if it is well received by its viewers.

The show centers around the growing relationship between James and Molly, both freshman at Taylor. The problem introduced during the first episode is that Molly is involved with a guy from her hometown. Each episode will delve deeper into the plot and introduce new characters.

"Once you get into it, I think that everyone will really enjoy it. It pretty much portrays 'Taylor Love' — how romance comes about at Taylor," said James

Patterson, who plays the character James.

This is not Patterson's first experience with acting. He has been involved with high school theater productions, and also toured the country with a Christian musical/drama group

called Mishpachah Incorporated. At age nine, he was in the TV movie, "The Muppets Go To Disney World." Patterson said he expected to receive only a small part in "A Taylor University Love Story."

"It was an accident. I just wanted to be the roommate and have some small part," Patterson said. His character is "just your typical freshman, kind of clueless, kind of naïve."

Sophomore Sarah Merzig per-

forms the role of Molly. Merzig has been involved in previous theater productions, including the Taylor production of "Alice In Wonderland," in which she played the role of the Doormouse.

The show is expected to do well with the Taylor community because it tells the familiar story of life at Taylor. One episode features James and Molly walking around the loop to have a "DTR." The program also incorporates Taylor traditions like going to weekend open houses and eating at the DC.

Other characters on the show include Phil Boltz as James' friend and Perry Onorio as James' roommate, Drake. Onorio's part is modeled after a

Foundation resident who spends most of his time sleeping and only wakes up when food is mentioned. "It's going to launch my big acting career. My dream is that it will make me into the pop icon I long to be," Onorio said.

Bruce Johnson, communication arts instructor and TCS station adviser, is excited about Love's series.

"Zach's initiative and motivation is excellent. I'm excited to see six months of planning come together," he said.

Johnson hopes that the introduction of this "soap opera" to Taylor cable will foster enthusiasm in other students to do more with TCS.

"I hope ['Love Story'] will shed light on the fact that there's more to life than news... I'm just really proud," Johnson said.

Features

"Do give books ... for Christmas. They're never fattening, seldom sinful, and permanently personal."
-Lenore Hershey

Enjoying a night on the town

Formal pick-a-dates offer an excuse to dig out the duds

By LEANA BEFUS &
ASHLEY LEIFHET
STAFF WRITERS

Homecoming and prom are long gone, but those only-worn-once formals might be good for one more night out.

During December, most wings or floors have some sort of organized formal, which usually involves a nice dinner and a classy event such as the symphony or a play. The event inevitably brings back memories of high school dances. Girls on campus panic over finding dates and dresses. Guys throw on a suit and tie, and everyone sets out to have a wonderful time.

Many wings try to devise new and creative plans and activities for their formals. First West Olson opted for a casual date: a dinner at the Dining Commons, followed by Disney on Ice.

Freshman Emily Caine said, "The date would have been more awkward if it had been more formal: going to Disney on Ice was just a goofy thing to do while dressed up."



Photo courtesy of Havilah Pauley

FIRST WEST OLSON GIRLS take a break from their dates to capture some memories by the rink. The wing opted for a more casual "formal" and went to see Disney on Ice in Indianapolis.

Her date, junior Ryan Leavitt said going to Disney was "not as elegant, but the pick-a-date overall was fantastic."

The Indianapolis Symphony,

Fourth Bergwall's more traditional destination, included dinner at the Majestic Oyster Grill in downtown Indianapolis.

Freshman Jordan Kasper said,

"I prefer a more formal date - it gives the evening an air of independence and romance." Kasper has been on three formals so far, seeing the symphony twice, and

the Nutcracker once.

While the planned activities are exciting, some couples agree that the most fun is had after the formal is over.

Favorite after-date destinations are Steak n' Shake, movie theaters and bowling. Kasper highly recommended the Cheesecake Factory for dessert.

"This is better than high school formals because you can come and go as you please; you just have more freedom," he said.

For example, on the way to the symphony, his car took a detour to a flea market. They missed the first half of the symphony, but Kasper said the flea market was "definitely memorable."

Formals tend to be the most expensive pick-a-dates. Caine said that the cost is a factor in choosing a date. She recommended that students find someone that they are willing to spend the money on and to "save the ones you're not sure about for the less expensive pick-a-dates."

For Taylor students, nothing says Christmas like wearing high heels in the snow.

Giving Christmas gifts that show you care

By SUSAN BEEBE
FEATURES EDITOR

All issues of Christmas commercialism aside, the only way to avoid the proverbial doghouse is to buy presents for those you love. When romantic feelings are involved, the stakes get higher, and gift-giving stress follows suit. Sooner or later the great gift-giving ideas you had at the beginning of the relationship are all used up, and you're left floundering around the mall, wondering if maybe she'd like an electric toothbrush.

Of course, sentiment is sovereign when it comes to playing Santa. The giver's best bet remains being creative. Homemade gifts tend to generate the greatest amount of hugs and kisses. Photo albums and scrapbooks are safe bets, especially if you're one of those hopelessly romantic packrats that saves napkins from every restaurant you've ever visited.

But, when the well's run dry,

your only option may be - sigh - to spend a little money.

Every male should know by now that women love jewelry. Whether you're buying for mom or for that special someone, jewelry presents a safe, though expensive option. Steve Doles, manager of Zales Jewelers in the Muncie Mall, said that \$99 gift ideas, including heart-shaped boxes and necklaces, are by far the most popular. To avoid the clichéd heart shape in your Christmas jewelry, Doles suggested the diamond tennis bracelet as another option. It's a bit more expensive, but you've seen the commercials - the look on her face is worth it.

For mom, Doles presented a more original option. "Mother's rings are really popular. That's where you can have the birthstones of the kids; you can have the birthstones of the whole family, actually," he said.

Bath and Body Works offers something a little more compatible with a college student's wal-

let. "What we sell most is our gift sets that are already pre-made," said Laresa Webb, a Bath and Body Works employee. The sets can cost anything from \$11.50 to \$70, so there's something for any price range. (If you're planning on spending less than \$11.50, you better think creatively!) And girls, if the man in your life is in touch with his feminine side, there are gift sets with scents for men as well.

On the smelly note, perfume and cologne is often considered a romantic gift. Brenda Phelps of L.S. Ayers women's fragrances department said that Donna Karen, Ralph Lauren and Lucky for You are the most popular scents of the holidays. "Everyone wants to smell good. People are convinced that if you aren't wearing fragrance you aren't completely dressed," she said. For men, Nautica, Romance, Acqua Di Gio and Lucky for You are popular this year.

Things Remembered, also in the Muncie Mall, offers affordable ideas on which your most mushy thoughts can be engraved forever.

"We have something called 'Giftables' that are under \$30," said employee Jenny Bigham. "A lot of people are going for the office sets with name plates, and ornaments, some of which benefit the Make-a-Wish Foundation."

Ladies, gift-giving is the perfect opportunity to give subtle style suggestions to the man in your life. If clothes seem too practical, this is your chance to support his obsession with sports.

Scott Griest, manager of Kesler Sport Shop, said that the hot items this year are bikes and scooters. Scooters are all the rage this season, but if this seems too juvenile, he suggests a "nice accessory for the bicycle."

Whatever you choose, remember that your gift should tell your loved one how you feel about him or her. Sorry guys, the electric toothbrush is a fast ticket to the doghouse.

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The mission of the Echo is to fairly and without bias represent the views of diverse voices on Taylor University's campus and to be a vehicle of accurate and pertinent information to the student body, faculty and staff. The Echo also aims to be a forum that fosters healthy discussion about relevant issues, acting as a catalyst for change on our campus.

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Residence halls open their doors to Christmas

BY HILLARY BOSS
STAFF WRITER

"Deck the halls" took on a different meaning this week, as residents of campus dorms decorated their wings and floors for their annual Christmas open house.

This week, students had plenty of opportunities for fellowship and fun at various open houses.

"My favorite part about Christmas open houses is having everybody there enjoying the holiday in a festive mood," said freshman Anna Bixel.

On Monday night, Morris Hall opened its doors to visitors. Junior Kurt Brodbeck, a P.A. on Penthouse, said the men on his floor saw a constant flow of people from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Brodbeck said the theme on Penthouse this year was "Pirate

Christmas." They decorated the lounge to look like a pirate ship, and visitors could "walk the plank" into the mouth of a whale, hunt for treasure on land or visit a pirate town. Brodbeck said they spent about 48 hours creating the decorations.

Senior Andy Keller, a Penthouse alumnus, was impressed by the floor's creativity and hard work.

"I think it is the best open house they've had since the new dorm was built," he said. "The new Morris is a lot harder to decorate because it's so much bigger than the old one."

"It was awesome watching the hall totally transform," Freshman Robey Barnes said. "We are just a bunch of guys putting our heads together, and it was fun to walk around and enjoy our work."

Olson Hall's open house on Tuesday night featured "Christmas Around the World." Bixel said her favorite wing was Second West, which was transformed into a "Blizzard in Upland."

"Every room was a different store or place around Upland," Bixel said. Students could eat pizza at TOPPIT or sit on a stool in the Upland Tavern.

At the English Hall open house on Wednesday night, visitors had the opportunity to vote for the most creative wing decorations. Hall council president Brandi Jensen, a senior, said that each wing was decorated as different



Photo by Bryan Smith

MAKING A LIST, CHECKING IT TWICE. Sophomore Beth Byers has her picture taken with Walt Campbell during Gerig Hall's Christmas Open House. Campbell was one of many Santas featured Wed. night.

types of Christmas. Themes ranged from "Christmas at the North Pole," "Candy Land" and "Kissing Christmas." Third North's "Techno Christmas" won the contest.

Also on Wednesday night, Gerig Hall's open house featured the traditional Sumo Santa competition and eggnog-drinking contest. Sophomore Erin Hall said, "The theme for the whole hall this year is 'Macy's,' but each suite is a different movie."

Visitors could walk into scenes from "It's a Wonderful Life," "Miracle on 34th Street" or "White Christmas," among many others. In the Gerig lounge, visitors took pictures with famous Taylor Santas like Professor Bill Heth, Dean of Students Walt Campbell, and Student Body President Steve Klipp.

Heth enjoyed his experience as the Gerig Santa. "My time was a little slow but Fred Shulze's whole class came to visit him."

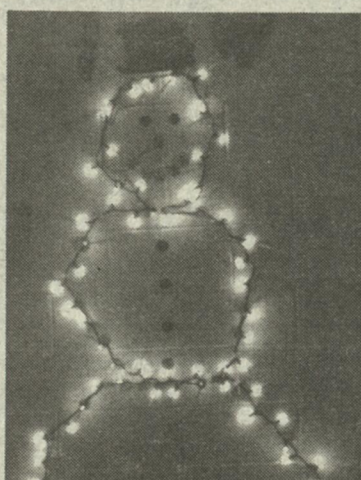


Photo by Bryan Smith

ENGLISH HALL was transformed into a winter wonderland.

Healthy living is key to test-taking

BY JENNY ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

In the next week, gallons of coffee and other caffeinated beverages will be consumed as students prepare for what could be the most important week of the semester - finals.

As finals week approaches, the most common advice from faculty and staff is to get plenty of rest and eat well.

"Eating well and sleeping well have more to do with performance than what students give it credit for," said Edwin Welch, Coordinator of Academic Support Services. He said that "all-nighters" could actually be more detrimental to students than they think.

According to Kimberly Spragg of Academic Affairs, many students underestimate finals week. Even though the load often seems lighter because there are only one or two tests on a particular day, students should not put off study-

ing until the last minute. Spragg recommended focusing on one subject for an hour and then taking a small break. Planned study sessions in short intervals can help eliminate overload, she said.

Despite advice to get plenty of sleep, there will inevitably be students who count on cramming and "all-nighters" to help them make the grade on their exams. Robert Dowdy, a professor at the University of Houston, said in a test-taking seminar that students who cram for their tests should take a 15-minute "cat nap" every four hours throughout the night. If a longer nap is necessary, take a 90-minute nap to allow for a complete sleep cycle, leaving all the

lights in the room on, he said. However, Dowdy cautions students to use cramming wisely and not to cram for exams in your major field of study, or

those containing math and science formulas.

Taking exams can be stressful. Having a schedule

of study sessions and study breaks can help students make the best use of their time and avoid the procrastination that leads to cramming.

One such study break to put on the calendar is the SAC Study Break in the D.C. from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m., Dec. 5. There will be lots of food that students can eat there or take back to their rooms.

There will be something for everyone among the planned activities, according to Christy Freed, the SAC coordinator for this event. Students are invited to come and go as they please.

The day of the exam, eat a meal of light carbohydrates and remember to relax. Consider reading through the entire test before beginning to know how much time to allot for each section.

Students may also want to first answer as much of the subjective part of the exam as possible, since some information will appear several times throughout the test. For objective exams, it can be helpful to use scratch paper to help organize thoughts, with the professor's permission, of course.

Most importantly, remember the sage advice that always accompanies finals week: eat well and get plenty of rest. And relax ... it is only a test, right?

SAC STUDY BREAK

TUESDAY 11P.M.-1A.M.

FOOD FOOD FOOD FOOD

Opinion

Professor responds to issue of body art

"There can be no transforming of darkness into light and of apathy into movement without emotion."
-Carl Jung

By PROF. BILL HETH
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I write this response to last week's "Piercings and tattoos . . . with great interest in the subject. While studying Paul's letter to the Galatians this semester, I have become sensitized to situations where one group of believers seeks to make another group more acceptable to God by shackling them with lifestyle restrictions that God himself would not impose (cf. Acts 15:5-11). The Echo article clearly implied that the standard (Lev. 19:28) which once shaped Christian behavior in this area has loosened. Piercings and tattoos have now become acceptable forms of expression even for followers of Christ. It sounds like young believers have found a freedom in Christ that older believers missed because of an unnecessary legalistic restriction. Perhaps the article could also have quoted Paul's words to the Galatians: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (5:1).

Let me draw a parallel to what was going on in Paul's letter to the Galatians. The first followers of Jesus were Jewish. They had always expressed their commitment to God by living in accordance with the Mosaic Law. But how would new Gentile believers, who did not have the law, know how to live a life pleasing to God? Whereas Paul would argue that dependence upon the Holy Spirit's leading is all one needs (Gal. 2:20; 5:16-25), the Jewish-Christian traditionalists said Paul's Gentile

converts needed to be circumcised and keep the Jewish food laws. This, the Judaizers felt, would be a great practical way to help former pagans live a life honoring to God.

Unfortunately, the Judaizers were not simply converting others; they were nationalizing them! They wanted to make Gentile believers culturally Jewish like they were! What they were doing would be comparable to telling a new convert from a Billy Graham Crusade today that he or she must also become Wesleyan, Presbyterian, Methodist or Lutheran before the conversion process is truly complete and acceptable to God (cf. McKnight, Galatians 24). It would also be comparable to our overseas missionaries requiring tribal groups to bring their cultural customs in line with those of American evangelicals in order to make them truly acceptable to God (= cultural imperialism).

So what's the parallel to "Piercings and tattoos?" The article could have argued that the traditional evangelical prohibition of tattoos based on Lev. 19:28 is comparable to the Judaizers' prohibition of non-kosher foods among Gentile believers in Galatia. One might even paraphrase Paul: "Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be non-tattooed. For in Christ Jesus neither tattooing nor non-tattooing has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule" (Gal. 6:12a; 5:6; 6:16a). But would they be correct in doing so? Are piercings and tattoos *adiaphora*, that is, matters inconse-

quential or neutral to living out one's identity in Christ?

First, let's look at Lev. 19:28: "You shall not make any gashes in your flesh for the dead or tattoo any marks upon you: I am the LORD" (NRSV). OT exegetes unanimously note that the prohibition in the first half of v. 28 is related to the bodily disfigurement that accompanied pagan mourning practices, which sometimes included lacerating oneself (cf. 1 Kings 18:28; Jer. 16:6; 41:4-5). It does not follow, however, that the godly person is allowed to gash their body if it is done for other reasons.

What one is allowed to do with or to one's body should be determined by a theology of creation (see below). Alternatively, v. 27 prohibits the trimming of hair in view of the Canaanite practice of making a hair offering to propitiate the spirits of the dead (cf. Deut. 14:1). Obviously the prohibition of trimming one's hair is not binding on believers today because of our altered context. Each case must be considered on its own. (See also Deut. 22:5. Women may wear slacks to church!)

But why was tattooing the body prohibited? No doubt in the ancient Near East, tattooing was done as part of a religious ritual - whether to protect a person from the spirits of the dead or to demonstrate membership in a group. (3 Maccabees 2:29 reveals that the ivy-leaf symbol was branded on the bodies of adherents to Dionysus, the god of wine.) However, does this mean that one may tattoo their bodies for decora-

tive reasons or to indicate that they belong to Jesus Christ? Only a biblical theology of creation can help answer this question.

OT theologians suggest that tattooing one's body is prohibited because "it involves a self-imposed alteration of God's creation, unlike circumcision, which is commanded by God" (IVP Bible Background Commentary: OT 134). Since God created humans in his own image and pronounced all creation very good, people are not to disfigure the

"...a permanent reminder of a temporary feeling..."

divine likeness implanted in them by scarring the body. "The external appearance of the people should reflect their internal status as the chosen and holy people of God (Deut. 14:1-2)" (Wenham, Leviticus 272). Paul agrees. He says that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God. He says that your body does not belong to you to do with whatever you please; and that since you have been bought with a price you are to glorify God in your body (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

Yes, this raises a whole host of questions, but perhaps only one is needful: If Jesus were to show up and ask, "Why are you doing this? Why are you getting a tattoo or multiple piercings?" what would you say? Hopefully one's response will not correspond to the radically individualistic stance that lurks behind almost every problem in 1 Corinthians. Hopefully it will not turn into an

obsession to get more, for Paul said, "Not everything is beneficial. I will not be mastered by anything" (1 Cor. 6:12).

If getting a tattoo is considered a defilement of God's creation, then this is something to think long and hard about. This does not quite fall into the category of the debates I had with my parents over the length of my hair when I was in college. Hair length, color and styles are never permanent. Neither are piercings for the most part. But tattoos are. Fortunately, too, getting a tattoo will not separate one from Christ (Rom. 8:38-39); but one should ask what tattoos and piercings in strange places has to do with one's relationship with Christ. Among other questions, I think Paul would ask, "Will exercising my freedom in this area help to advance the gospel or hinder it (cf. 1 Cor. 8:9-13; 9:19-23)? Does it draw too much attention to myself (1 Tim. 2:9-10)?"

I find it interesting that a Time magazine article recently reported that the most rapidly growing area of cosmetic surgery today is tattoo removal. This is suggestive of a line in a song I just heard about: a tattoo "is a permanent reminder of a temporary feeling." Let me close with Paul's words to the young Gentile believers troubled by the restrictive teaching of the Judaizers: "For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another" (Gal. 5:13). Hey, all of us indulge the self inappropriately now and then. Let's just not make it fashionable.

Questions help to reveal clarity in 'muddy waters'

By LAUREN HEGNER
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"But I can't go out and try to see this way, I'll fail; I'll go mad. All I can do is try to gag the commentator, to hush the noise of useless interior babble that keeps me from seeing just as surely as a newspaper dangled before my eyes.

"The effort is really a discipline requiring a lifetime of dedicated struggle; it marks the literature of saints and monks. The world's spiritual geniuses seem to discover universally that the mind's muddy river, this ceaseless flow of trivia and trash, cannot be dammed, and that trying to dam it is a waste of effort that may lead to madness.

Instead you must allow the

muddy river to flow unheeded in the dim channels of consciousness, you raise your sights; you look along it, mildly acknowledging it's presence without interest and gazing beyond it into the realm of the real, where subjects and objects act and rest purely without utterance. Launch into the deep, and you shall see," (Annie Dillard, "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek").

Muddy Rivers. That is the only way I can describe what flows through my head all day and night. I came to school this semester with a tidy little worldview. But then, somebody kept tugging on my sleeve. Realizing it was the Spirit, I thought perhaps I should listen to what it had to teach me.

Since then, I have had to confront

every issue, ask every question of myself, put the Scripture before the symbols, become a real person rather than a plaster of religion gone sour.

I awoke this year. I awoke to the world. It had been there, but I had been asleep. I came to realize that the world is bigger than pick-a-dates. I realized I was plagued by the most dominant sickness of our time - superficiality.

This muddy river of shallowness was more like a thrashing ocean in my life. I was lost in a raging sea, and I didn't have the courage or the strength to pull myself out from the depths of the type of surface-like Christianity I had subscribed to for so long.

So I made friends with the likes of

Thomas Merton, Annie Dillard, Flannery O'Connor, Dorothy Day. By the light of my friends, I began to realize that a cigarette didn't mean hell, and praise songs didn't mean faith.

I started to question my environment here at Taylor. Was there true Christianity in this place that claimed such things as "the integration of faith and learning?" There is much more to integration than reading a chapter in your textbook and relating a Bible character to some of the main points in the chapter.

I questioned my God without shame. I doubted. I denied. I cried. I laughed. I was thirsty for truth. I still am.

The muddy rivers have been

channeling a bit more these days. And I can see above them.

Now I can disregard some of the rubble that enters my mind through the course of the day.

I have begun to see the marks of "authentic Christianity," and I have come up with a bit of a mission statement for my life.

Nothing is too clearly defined but at least I have something.

I refuse to separate personal faith from social justice, contemplation from action or spirituality from political issues.

As of now, this is as far as I have been lead.

I hope someday these waters will cease to flow, but until then I - we - must search for the truth that can only be found by looking "above."

Student discusses pagan roots of tattooing

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BY AIMEE FRIZ

"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). One of the most difficult responsibilities of Christians is keeping themselves as untainted by worldly ways, practices and philosophies as possible, while living in and among the world.

Elisabeth Elliot once wrote that the world has a way of working its way into the church. Throughout history, well-meaning Christians have been drawn into beliefs and practices of the world, many times unaware. A brief survey of the New Testament, especially the writings of Paul, demonstrates several warnings of the dangers of being drawn into worldly practices.

As students of Taylor University, we have the privilege and the responsibility to put forth an honorable and holy example to the world around us. Indeed, Taylor is even now held in highest esteem, not only in Christ's

Church, but also by those who are of the world.

Whether we like it or not, there are many who have their eyes on us. Our parents are enduring a tremendous financial burden so that we may be so blessed as to attend such a fine institution. Those who are back in our home congregations are praying for us and hoping that we will be, not average, but shining examples of Christian living.

However, and maybe even more importantly, the world is watching us to see how much we will conform to its standards.

Many of us were told by the world when we announced our decision to attend a Christian university, that "things are no different from the state universities; the students at Christian universities act the same as the state schools." This was told to me many times. Surely all of us want to show the world that our allegiance belongs to Christ, and not to public opinion or fads.

Which brings me to the point of this writing. The Bible has

always shown high regard and special dignity for the human body. Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, even goes so far as to say that degradation of the body, especially by immorality, is perhaps worse than any other sin, because it offends the temple of the Holy Spirit. He then states, "You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

As Christians we often say, "Have thine own way Lord, have thine own way." Yet, one of the most difficult things to give the Lord is our body. The *Echo* recently contained an article that apparently declared the removal of all Christian bans on body piercings and tattoos.

Many of the reasons put forth for the approval of such practices were founded in the ways and workings of the world we live in. MTV was lifted up as some type of oracle that "broke through and changed everybody's perception about everything." The movie

"Highlander" was also noted as an influence to practice this type of behavior. The popularity by the masses was also given recognition in the quote, "I noticed this year that just a ton of people have tattoos."

Traditionally, these are the persuasive means that the world has often, if not always, used to lure Christians into acting as they do.

However, if one looks at the history of body piercing and tattoos, one finds that this practice has come out of the drug culture and the homosexual culture. Traditionally, tattoos and body markings were acquired by pagan warriors to make themselves appear more fierce and to aid them in battle. The mark of the gods would protect them and allow them to fight fiercely - a form of idol worship.

The drug culture uses tattoos to hide needle marks. Body piercing, and especially the piercing of the tongue, is done by the homosexual community to make oral sex "more interesting," as one man stated. Sadomasochists have also looked to body pierc-

ing as a way to inflict voluntary pain upon themselves and others.

Christians have always regarded the marking and deforming of the human body as something from which to refrain. Pagans in Africa, India and even among the American Indians, immediately halted their practice of these types of things when they became Christian.

And so I want to encourage my brothers and sisters in Christ who are fellow students at Taylor to think more deeply about the will of our parents and of God. Let us show our love and appreciation to our parents for the sacrifices they are making so we may have the privilege to attend Taylor.

Let us honor the thousands of those who wanted to come to Taylor, yet were turned away, by being the best of the best and shining forth as Christian leaders. But, by all means, let us honor God by keeping our bodies pure and undefiled.

P.S. If someone really wants to inflict voluntary pain on themselves through body piercing, I would suggest donating blood.

Social Work major encourages students to 'do something'

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BY ALLISON PIZZI

Unfortunately, the efforts made by the Residence Life staff last week to enlighten the student body regarding the people and conditions just outside "the Loop" seemed like just another art exhibit or sign posted around campus. This is the reason for my writing today.

I do not need to restate the startling facts about Grant County and its residents. Displays were prominently set up in each of the residence halls and at other locations around campus, so we have all had the opportunity to read the harsh reality for ourselves. However, very few of us did much more than simply read the facts, grab our mail from our mailboxes, and climb the stairs to our dorm rooms. While I am not in any way suggesting that I am above such apathetic responses, I am suggesting that they are wrong. In fact, I am willing to go one step further and say such apathy is sin. The "When Did We See You, Lord?" displays are not just another art exhibit to be viewed or another advertisement to be read. They require us to take action.

Christ teaches us that whatever we fail to do to those around us we also fail to do to Him. With a

truth like that staring us coldly in the face, it is sinful for any of us to stand there, read the startling facts on a bulletin board about Grant County, and then walk away unchanged. If we do not help the people of Grant County, we are leaving our Savior out in the cold, alone.

I write this not to preach to anyone. I write this as a social work major who has learned both through the classroom and through experiences in the real world that hurting people need love. My challenge to you is to make a difference in simple ways; be Taylor students whose lives so reflect the love of Christ that the hurting people of Grant County are blessed by every small encounter they have with you. In the checkout line at Wal-Mart, smile and talk to Doris the checkout lady. When you fill up your car with gas, pay inside instead of at the pump so that you can wish the clerk a Merry Christmas. Leave an extra quarter or two on the table at Steak 'n Shake in the waitress' tip. Ask the guy at KFC-Taco Bell how his day is going. These are little things that can make a big difference to our neighbors.

The "When Did We See You, Lord?" displays are not art exhibits. Don't just stand there; do something!

Christ replaced with neon cross

Letter to the editor presents the challenge of suffering

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BY ANDREW FORREST

Recently, a question has been pounding away at my brain. The words to a Simon and Garfunkel song triggered the thought again: "And the people bowed and prayed to the neon god they made." The question is this: What are the consequences of removing the crucifix from the center of the Christian church? What happens when we remove the murdered Jesus, and replace him, as Taylor does, with lights (maybe neon, I'm not sure) exuding from behind?

The cross is a symbol. If Church walls are yellow people do not crave bananas. But the cross hangs at the center, the very heart of the church. When we remove ourselves away from a suffering Christ, we remove ourselves from God, our fellow man and ourselves.

A paradox of the faith is that one gains life through death. Thorns precede an empty tomb. Both require reverence and contemplation. Without an understanding of both, the Christian faith loses meaning.

A common comment from those outside the Church is the following: "I would attend Church, it's just that I don't feel welcome." Is this coldness on

the Church's part caused by our refusal to enter Gethsemane? Has the Church forgotten what it means to be a member of the human race? Have we at Taylor forgotten our need, forgotten the agony and the necessity of suffering?

As I gaze at the limp body of Jesus, I am silenced. Within that silence, I shut my phony mouth and face myself as I am - lonely, afraid and in need of help. But I gaze up, trying to see through a film of

tears, and I see the Son of God hanging on a tree. Suddenly, I am not alone. My loneliness is transformed into a solitude in which the God of the Universe is with me. Suddenly, I am content. It is not contentment based on my memorized Bible verses, not with how good I'm doing, but on solidarity with Jesus, solidarity with our pain.

The rest of the world yearns for this solidarity. Moreover, the Church is called to it. Do this semester's editorials yearning for honesty not send a strong enough signal that we have become so immersed in our steam-pressed suits, looking successful, having the answer, that we've forgotten

what it is to suffer, to fail, to have questions? Is it not so much that we have forgotten, but that we have chosen to look away from that mess? As this avoidance occurs, we no longer worship God, but ourselves. We no longer relate to humanity, as our self-righteousness separates us from the rest of the world. The burn-out, the alcoholic, the

unwed mother who just received an abortion - really anyone who doesn't fit the mold - chooses

elsewhere. Maybe they should. What are we offering but numbed neon out of touch with reality?

Henri Nouwen writes, "When we think about the people who have given us hope ... they are not the advice givers, warners, or moralists, but the few who were able to articulate ... the human condition in which we participate and who encourage us to face the realities of life ... The paradox indeed is that the beginning of healing is in the solidarity with the pain."

It would be beautiful if Taylor were a beacon of honesty. It is time to replace our neon with a nailed Emmanuel.

"What are the consequences of removing the crucifix from the center of the Church?"

Sports

"Some cause happiness wherever they go;
others, whenever they go."
- Oscar Wilde.

Men break even after Malone College Tournament

Naughty or nice: The men's basketball team adds "improving on 5-7 record" in their letter to Santa

BY JOSHUA PETERS

SPORTS EDITOR

Finals week is fast approaching and DTRs are taking place *en masse* in every quiet corner of campus. But as it is with most DTRs, usually someone does not get their desired response. Things seemed to be no different for the men's basketball team against Malone last weekend in

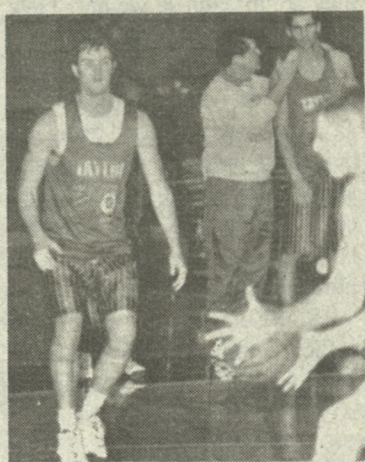


Photo by Noel Schutt

TRENT SCHRADER focuses on defense in practice.

their tournament.

After shooting a sub-par 37.5 percent in the first half, one could assume the only direction to go is up. However, the Trojans shot an inadequate 29 percent in the second half, paving the way to a 71-58 loss to host Malone.

The Trojans (3-7) were plowed over by Malone's success in the first half as the Pioneers connected on 64 percent of their shots from the field. The impressive numbers from Malone and Taylor's disappointing shooting equaled a 36-24 halftime deficit for the Trojans.

The second half was a little more balanced as Malone decreased its shooting efficiency to 38 percent. In spite of Malone's lackadaisical shooting, the Trojans were unable to produce the desired effort for the win. The game ended in a 71-58 loss for the Trojans.

After their loss, Taylor was looking to come home breaking even in their Malone Tournament

record. Berea College was their Saturday night adversary. Freshman Matt Traylor led the scoring column with 17, while Tyson Jones added 16 and Alan Jones dropped in 14.

After a ghastly night of shooting on Friday, the Trojans (4-7) turned things around for the better, putting up a 55 percent shooting effort from the field to pull off a 80-75 win over Berea. This game was a sweet victory for the Trojans after losing to Berea last month by a three-point margin.

Taylor got out early by hitting 61 percent in the first half, including 4-6 from three point land on the way to a 42-36 advantage going into the locker room. The second half was played very evenly as Taylor maintained their lead.

Alan Jones and Traylor each tallied 19 points, and John Miles contributed 16. Miles also added eight rebounds, while Jones had six.

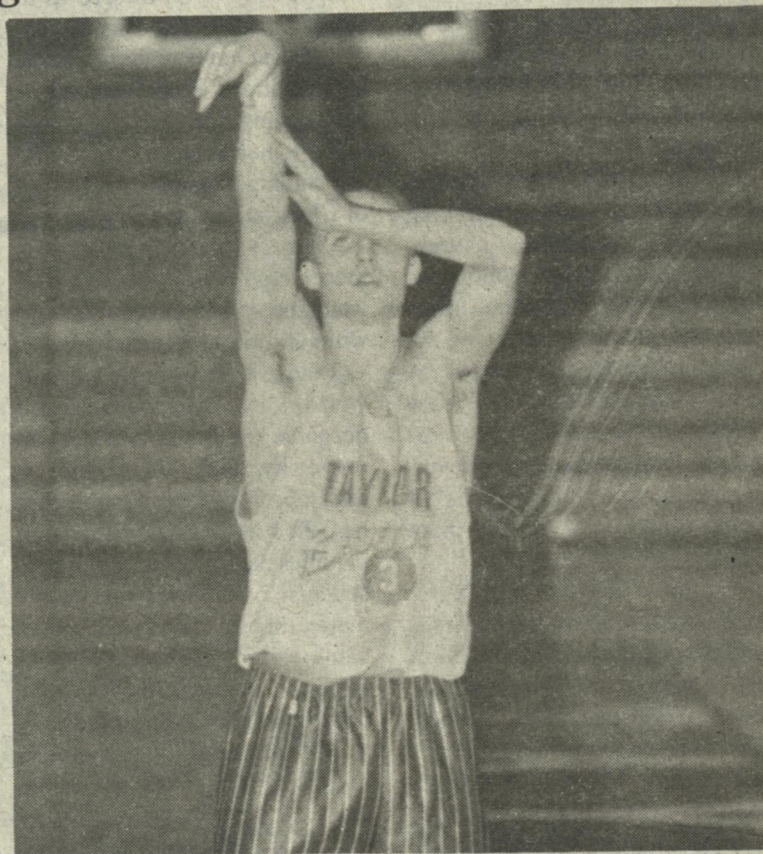


Photo by Noel Schutt

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT for Matt Boling's free throw.

Lady Trojans down Tri-State in final seconds

BY DEBBIE DOUGLASS

SPORTS WRITER

The Lady Trojan basketball team had a big game Tuesday night. Tri-State, ranked 26th in the nation with a 8-1 record, was standing menacingly between the Lady Trojans and a victory.

The first half proved to be frustrating for Taylor. Defense was not rotating as they needed to and the level of intensity was struggling to keep pace with a team of Tri-State's caliber.

Player-to-player, the ladies were outmatched in height and speed, especially under the basket. All of these factors contributed to a six-point deficit at the half.

During the half-time break, Coach Krause told the team they needed to "play hard and play smart" in order to beat this team. The Lady Trojans took her words to heart and entered the second half with a new intensity. The defense stepped up to the challenge and rotated much better than the first half and effectively doubled down on the post players.

As the final minutes ticked away, Taylor was down by two, but senior captain Erin Hutton

landed a key shot to tie the game. With nine seconds left, Coach Krause called a time-out. When the clock restarted, Hutton again received the ball.

Whatever Krause said to the women must have worked. Hutton was freed up and took the fateful shot as the game-ending buzzer sounded. All breathlessly watched as the ball slipped into the basket. It was a key win for the team and a memorable moment for the Lady Trojans.

"This was a hard-fought game", Coach Krause said.

"The whole team supported the effort, both on and off the court. It came down to the final minutes and the Lady Trojans were able to do what needed to be done," she said.

Krause was impressed by the team's leadership, especially under the pressure of the last few minutes of the game.

The Lady Trojans are now 8-3. Previous to the game they were ranked 28th in the nation, and they hope that this win will bump up their position in the rankings.

With the victory against Tri-State still fresh, the team will hit the road with a new-found intensity.



Photo by Noel Schutt

WISHES COME TRUE: The Lady Trojans rejoice after their incredible second-half comeback.